

FIREBUGS TERRORIZED THE CITIZENS OF ST. AUGUSTINE.

**Awoke in the Night to Find Many of their Houses in
Flames and a Big Winter Hotel
All Ablaze.**

TAMPERED WITH ALL THE FIRE PROTECTION.

Holes Were Punched in the Engine Suction Pipes and All
the Connections with the Fire Alarm Bells Had
Been Cut by the Incendiarists.

ENRAGED BUSINESS MEN OFFERED A REWARD FOR THE FIENDS.

Hundreds of Lives Were Endangered by the Fires Set in the Residence Part
of the Town and the People at a Mass Meeting Talked
of Lynching in Case the Criminals
Were Caught.

St. Augustine, Fla., Nov. 7.—Never before
has such excitement prevailed in this city
as was caused by a series of fires which
occurred at an early hour this morning and
proved to be the work of firebugs of the
most fiendish nature, for they did not stop
even at the risk of human life.

Although several small residences were
set on fire and the sleeping inmates nar-
rowly escaped with their lives, the houses
being partially saved, the only real dis-
aster to property was the loss of the
hotel San Marco, one of the largest and
most beautiful hotels in the State.

This was burned to the ground, and most
of the furniture on the first floor was saved.
This hotel, which was perhaps the most
desirably located one in St. Augustine, was
built by Colonel J. S. Craft in 1884 at a
cost of \$225,000. The structure and the
furniture, valued at \$25,000, were com-
pletely destroyed, as well as several other
smaller buildings in the locality.

The present owner of the hotel property
is Mr. Bente, of Boston, who had several
months ago leased it to Messrs. Palmer &
McDowell, who were to arrive here early
this week, with help to place the house in
readiness to open early next month.

Fire in the Boiler Room.
It was a few minutes past 3 o'clock this
morning when Jake Masters, from the On-
tagus residence, discovered fire in the
boiler room of the Hotel San Marco. He
immediately fired a pistol and notified Ed-
ward McBride, who has charge of the
property, and who lives in the hotel.

Marshall High and Officer Benet were
soon on the scene, and after firing their
pistols, an alarm was sounded. It was
discovered that the incendiaries had cut
the fire bell rope, and steam whistles had
to be resorted to. Those who gathered at
the first call did not wait for the engines
and hose, but attached the hotel hose to
the well on the grounds and commenced
the fight.

Holes in the Hose.
One engine reached the scene, but its
work was delayed owing to the "fire bugs"
having cut holes in the suction pipes which
supply water from the hydrants and in
screwing up the couplings so tight that
time was lost in loosening them. The
flames spread from woodshed and boiler
room to the kitchen, then to the dining
room and theatre. These structures were
three stories high, and to the west of, but
connecting with the main building, which
was six stories high, with towers in the
centre and on each wing. Hundreds of
men assisted in removing the furniture
from the main floor and a large quantity
was taken out, the main floor being almost
entirely bare before the fire drove the
workers away.

Attack Residences.
The firebugs have the citizens in a state
of abject terror, for they have already fired
three, other buildings. Besides the San
Marco, no other hotels were touched, the
landmarks raising their attention to the
residence portion of the city and that which
was most thickly populated.

All the private houses which were set on
fire were watched closely enough to enable
the police to discover the blazes and quickly
extinguish them. The sleeping inmates es-
caped.

Nearly every business man of the place
attended a mass meeting this evening, at
which it was decided to offer a reward of
\$500 for the arrest of the criminal or crim-
inals.

Lynching May Follow.
So bitter is the feeling existing that
should the guilty one be found to-night he
would doubtless be summarily dealt with.
There can be no cause assigned for the
deed, and no clue has been found as yet.

The Mayor has sworn in twenty addition-
al policemen to guard the city. All of the
large hotels are thought to be safe, but the
engine and boiler rooms of the hotels Pon-
ce de Leon and Alcazar will be kept in con-
stant operation from now on with steam up
so as to be ready for action at a moment's
notice in aid of their fire departments,
which are thoroughly organized.

The firebugs have been at work for a
week or two, but did not grow so bold until
this morning.

Like a Former Experience.
About nine years ago the old city had a
similar experience, when the old Spanish
Cathedral, the St. Augustine Hotel and
other landmarks were destroyed. The dam-
age done by last night's fire can be summed
up as follows: \$225,000 on San Marco build-
ing, \$20,000 on furniture, \$1,000 on shrub-
bery and grounds surrounding hotel and
\$2,000 damage to neighboring houses by fire
and water.

The San Marco is where the accident oc-
curred to W. J. Bryan and hearers last
May, when the platform fell.

LAMBEER WILL FIGHT PLATT.

**He Heads a Combine of As-
semblymen Formed to
Beat the Boss.**

HOLD THE WINNING HAND.

Trojan Cannot Organize the As-
sembly Without the Aid of
Anti-Machine Members.

PLATT IN DESPERATE STRAITS

He and Speaker O'Grady Confer and
Decide to Do Something to Pla-
cate Their Foes—Contests
as a Last Resort.

Francis E. Lambeer, Assemblyman-elect.



**THE BROKEN
COFFIN**
The Grave Robbery at Millville, N. J.

It was discovered yesterday morning that the grave of Mrs. Phoebe Tilton, at
Millville, had been opened and the coffin taken out. This had been broken open
with an axe and the body of the woman, who had been dead four months, was
horribly mutilated. No evidence leading to the capture of the ghouls has so far been
discovered.

from the Twenty-seventh District, of this
city, is a candidate for Speaker of the
State Assembly. Mr. Lambeer yesterday
authorized the Journal to make this an-
nouncement, adding that he proposed to
enter the contest as the choice of as many
members as might desire to exhibit their
independence of Thomas C. Platt or any
other political boss. A combine of mem-
bers-elect from New York and Kings coun-
ties has been already formed to place
either Lambeer or some other anti-Platt
man in the Speaker's chair. It comprises
the seven Citizens' Union members, who,
as exclusively announced in the Journal,
will hold the balance of power in the low-
er house at Albany. Assurances have also
been given from rural districts that co-
operation will be given in any and all
efforts to prevent the Republican boss from
organizing the Assembly. Those who have
already joined the combine are:

NEW YORK COUNTY.
Francis E. Lambeer, John A.
Weekes, Jr., A. F. Sellberg.
KINGS COUNTY.
Abram C. De Gray, Edward C.
Brennan, George Tiffany, David S.
Davis.

Lambeer and Weekes, while nominally
Republicans, owed their nominations entire-
ly to the Citizens' Union. Sellberg, nomi-
nally a Democrat, defeated both Elshager,
the Platt machine, and Sedgel, the regular
Democratic candidate in the Twenty-ninth
district of this city. De Gray, Brennan,
Davis and Tiffany are Jacob Worth Republi-
cans. Though all four of the latter are



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going through the form of being candidates
for Speaker themselves they have, it is
said, told Mr. Lambeer he can have their
votes when needed.

Platt's Handicap.
"From what source do you expect to
derive your support in the contest for the
Speakership?" Mr. Lambeer was asked.
"From all members who be-
lieve in the right of individual
legislators to think and act ac-
cording to the dictates of their
own consciences, and not because
of the dictation of a boss."

"It is apparent that there are not enough
machine Republicans to organize the As-
sembly. I doubt if Senator Platt can con-
trol more than seventy at the outside,
while seventy-six constitute a majority.
The Democrats, I think, have about seven-
ty-two, or four less than a majority.
Seven of us, if not eight, hold the balance
of power. Why should we not, therefore,
be considered?"

"But seven votes are very few among one
hundred and fifty."
"Yes; but you will recall that Frank
Hiscock had only four more when he start-
ed in on his canvass for United States Sen-
ator in 1887. If I recollect correctly he
held these eleven until Senator Platt was
compelled to throw nearly forty votes
pledged to Levi P. Morton, in order to pre-
vent the re-election of Warner Miller."

Counts on the Journal.
"Seven votes may mean a great deal in
the contest for Speaker this year," added
Mr. Lambeer, with a smile. "I do not
claim to have any, you know, but I expect

GHOULS ROB A WOMAN'S GRAVE AND MUTILATE HER BODY.

**The Open Tomb and Empty and Broken Coffin
Discovered by Young Men Strolling
Through the Cemetery.**

CORPSE DRAGGED INTO A WOOD AND LEFT.

**Dogs Gave the Alarm at Night, and Two Men Were Seen
Prowling in the Graveyard, but Were
Allowed to Escape.**



Millville, N. J., Nov. 7.—An act ghoulish
beyond precedent, and as mysterious as it
where they were.

Two Men at the Grave.
Bell was seen by the men. His form
was silhouetted against the light of a lamp
streaming through the doorway. The light
suddenly went out and the pair disap-
peared. On account of the intense dark-
ness Bell could not tell in what direction
they had gone. He saw them for a mo-
ment as their figures were made plain in
passing the marble tombstones and mon-
uments, but they were quickly lost to view.

Movements so strange and a place so
gloomy and an hour so unreasonable failed
to invite Mr. Bell to satisfy his curiosity.
He did not venture to the spot where he
saw the light of the lantern, but waited
his dogs, and went back to bed. He heard
nothing more until to-day, and what he
and others saw will not fail to impress the
incident permanently on his mind.

Young Men Discover It.
The burying ground of Millville is not a
large God's acre, nor is it far removed
from the residential section of the town. It
is therefore doubly strange that the dis-
covery was not made earlier. As it was,
the discovery was largely accidental.

Two young men, Richard Simpkins and
Charles Wisner, both of whom are well-
known in Millville, concluded to spend an
idle hour in a stroll through the cemetery.
They were walking leisurely along the
central part of it and presently descried a
mound of freshly turned earth. They
thought at first it was some newly made
grave, and curiosity attracted them to the
spot.

They had not walked many feet before
they were astonished to see a metal casket
by the side of the grave.

"It's empty," Wisner exclaimed.
"And so is the grave," answered his com-
panion.

The young men immediately began an ex-
cited investigation. The glass above the
face of the body had been rudely smashed
in and the pieces of it were scattered by
the side of the coffin. Whoever had re-
moved the body had come well prepared for
the dreadful work. The screws had been
twisted out and were found lying near by.

The grave had been dug out sufficiently
deep to loosen the earth about the casket,
which had then been lifted out. The im-
print of the coffin was distinct.

Crowd Soon Gathered.
Simpkins and Wisner immediately halted
several passersby at the cemetery gate, and
a large crowd quickly gathered. The police
also made their appearance on the scene in
short order.

It quickly developed that the body had
not been lifted and carried away or de-
ported in a vehicle. It had been dragged
over the paths and grass in the cemetery.
Several of the dead woman's garments
pointed the way, to say nothing of the
tracks of at least two men. The police are
inclined to think that there were but two
of the ghouls.